GOV. WHITEAKER'S OPINION.

Indian Agents the Greatest Liars Ever Known.

The session of the House Committee on Indian affairs Saturday was a very interesting one and the general sentiment exhibited is valuable as an indication of the action of Congress. The agreement of the Utes with the Interior department furnished the theme for discussion. The proposition of the bill ratifying this agreement, that the White river Utes should be sent to the Unitah agency in Utah, thus consolidating the agencies and getting rid of one agent, was brought up for discussion. There are 402 Utes on the Unitah reservation already, and they have their separate agent. Mr. Ainslie, of Idaho, offered an amendment, giving agricultural lands in Colorado to the White river Utes, instead of in Utah. This was voted down by a vote of four to four: Messrs. Errett, Deering, Waddill and Whiteaker in the affirmative, Messrs. Haskell, Poehler, Pond and Scales in the negative. Four members were absent, two of whom will certainly vote for this amendment, which, at the request of Mr. Ainslie, will be submitted to a vote of the full committee. There seems to be an idea in the House that there is an urgent necessity for the ratification of this agreement with the Utes. Mr. Haskell thinks there will be war with the Indians if it is not. In reply to a question whether he thought the war would be started by the Indians, he said no, it would be inaugurated by the miners. Other members of the committee thought there was no urgent necessity for the ratification of the agreement. Mr. Waddill, of Missouri, submitted two amendments, one to pay out of the $50,000 annuity to the Utes, provided by the agreement, $500 each per annum to the widows of the five men killed in the Meeker massacre; the second as a substitute to the pending bill, the scheme known as the "General Allotment bill." No action was taken on either amendment, and both were pending when the committee rose. It was agreed to bring them to a vote at the next session of the committee. The committee are anxious to substitute the General Allotment bill for the agreement, and it is probable such will be done. The General Allotment bill gives eighty acres of tillable and 160 acres of timber land to each head of a family in severalty. Each family is to receive aid from the Government, judiciously distributed, to assist their efforts at work and not to render such efforts unnecessary. The Indian cannot alienate or incumber his lands, in any possible way flowing from contracts, until after the expiration of twenty years, and not then unless the President of the United States, at his discretion, should cause to be issued to each head of a family a land patent for the amount of land granted him. In support of the General Allotment bill, Mr. Waddill and Mr. Scales both cited the cases of the Iroquois, now in New York, and the Cherokees, in North Carolina. The lands of these Indians are given them in commonalty, the only difference from the General Allotment bill. Surrounded by the whites, they have become civilized, and, as a whole, comparatively prosperous. Individual members of both nations have become exceptionally prosperous. Mr. Scales thinks the great curse of the whole Indian question is the agents. He does not censure the agents so much as the system, the bad qualities of which are so enormous and inherent that it necessarily makes the agent irresponsible, arbitrary and bad.

Secretary Schurz ardently favors the General Allotment bill. The principle of this bill was strongly advocated by him in his last annual report. He thinks, also, that this agreement with the Utes is the triumphant end of a very successful course of diplomacy with that tribe. The members of the committee think Mr. Schurz thoroughly honest in the matter, very much in earnest, and that his ideas, in the main, are the true and proper ones to be pursued, if the Indian problem is to be solved, but they think him too impracticable. Many of his details are visionary. Still they think he has gone farther on the road to a successful solution of the problem than any other Secretary who has preceeded him. The great trouble lies with the system. Gov. Whiteaker, of Oregon, declares many of the reports of the Indian agents to be the veriest pieces of Munchausenism that have been published since the appearance of the original work of the immortal Hungarian. It is probable that the present system, after all, will not be changed. There is an unreasoning sentimentality conceived in humanity, but nurtured in ignorance of Indian affairs, that will probably for some years to come defeat all efforts in Congress to establish a sound, practical, business-like plan of relief for the Indians. Congress needs to be educated up to the plane of practical wisdom on this subject, as well as private sentimentalists and Indian commissioners.